

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the body fluid is blood, plasma or serum.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the body fluid is urine.
8. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the body fluid is milk.

Claims 9-12 (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~25, wherein the antibody that specifically binds early conception factor is conjugated to a detectable moiety, and wherein after step b), the sample is washed, and the antibody bound to early conception factor is detected by adding a substrate or inducer, and changes in the substrate or inducer are monitored.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the antibody that specifically binds early conception factor is conjugated to a moiety selected from the group consisting of alkaline phosphatase, horseradish peroxidase, colloidal gold, and urease.

Claims 15-24 (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) A method for detecting conception in an animal comprising:

a) contacting a fluid or tissue sample from the animal with an antibody that specifically binds early conception factor under conditions whereby the antibody can bind to early

conception factor, and wherein early conception factor has a molecular weight from about 190,000 daltons to about 205,000 daltons; and

b) detecting binding of the antibody to the sample, wherein detecting the binding indicates the presence of early conception factor in the sample and conception in the animal.

26. (previously presented) A method for detecting early conception factor in an animal comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a sample from the animal with an antibody that specifically binds early conception factor under conditions whereby the antibody can bind early conception factor protein present in the sample and wherein early conception factor has a molecular weight from about 190,000 daltons to about 205,000 daltons; and

b) detecting binding of the antibody to early conception factor, wherein the binding indicates the presence of early conception factor in the animal.

27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein sample is blood, plasma or serum.

28. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the sample is urine.

29. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the sample is milk.

30. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the antibody that specifically binds early conception factor is conjugated to a detectable moiety, and wherein after step b), the sample is washed, and the antibody bound to early conception factor is detected by adding a substrate or inducer, and changes in the substrate or inducer are monitored.

31. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein the antibody that specifically binds early conception factor is conjugated to a moiety selected from the group consisting of alkaline phosphatase, horseradish peroxidase, colloidal gold, and urease.